

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

AGS: TGEN, PP

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN EXPEDITION TO NINIGO AND HERMIT IS-
LANDS AREA

REF: PORT MORESBY 0862

1. SMITHSONIAN APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S EFFORTS IN ITS BE-
HALF TO OBTAIN RESEARCH PERMISSION FOR SUBJECT EXPEDITION,
AND WILL RESPOND PROMPTLY TO LETTER WHEN RECEIVED FROM SEC-
RETARY FOR LANDS AND ENVIRONMENT.

2. SMITHSONIAN DISTURBED BY EMBASSY REPORT IN REFTTEL OF
GPNG IMPRESSION OF SMITHSONIAN/TYSON ROBERTS RELATIONSHIP.
ROBERTS WAS AND REMAINS RESEARCH ASSOCIATE OF SMITHSON-
IAN'S TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE (LOCATED IN PANAMA) AND
SPENT LAST YEAR AT SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL
HISTORY WORKING ON MAJOR PORTION OF PNG COLLECTIONS AND
WRITING MONOGRAPH TO BE PUBLISHED BY SMITHSONIAN PRESS
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NEXT YEAR. CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF PNG COLLECTION HAS BEEN
ACCESSIONED IN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, AND
REMAINDER HAS BEEN TAKEN BY ROBERTS TO CALIFORNIA ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES WHERE ROBERTS IS CONTINUING HIS RESEARCH ON
THIS MATERIAL. COLLECTIONS AT CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCI-
ENCES REMAIN UNDER SMITHSONIAN CONTROL. SMITHSONIAN

CONSIDERS ROBERTS PNG COLLECTIONS STILL ACCESSIBLE TO APPROPRIATE AGENCIES OF GPNG AND IS ANXIOUS TO DISPEL ANY DOUBTS GPNG MAY HAVE ON SUBJECT. GPNG SHOULD ADDRESS ANY QUESTIONS ON SUBJECT TO MR. ROSS SIMONS, PROGRAM MANAGER, OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560.

3. IN MEANTIME, SMITHSONIAN WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING EMBASSY CAN DO TO REASSURE GPNG OF SMITHSONIAN INTENTION TO HONOR ITS COMMITMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ROBERTS PNG COLLECTION. CHRISTOPHER

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